

Message Text

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16

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 EUR-25 EA-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

RSC-01 SCA-01 SCSE-00 USIE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01

INRE-00 /169 W

----- 111397

O R 170836Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 487

INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1141

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS SEC 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6639

AID FOR FDRC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SWEL, PK

SUBJ: FLOOD CONDITIONS IN PAKISTAN

REF: A. STATE 162898, B. ISLAMABAD 6578

1. SUMMARY: ACTING DIRECTOR USAID, ALONG WITH REPS FROM EMBASSIES OF FRG, SWEDEN, IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AUSTRALIA, AND ACTING RES REP UNDP AND UNDP LIAISON OFFICER GOSS TOURED PUNJAB PROVINCE FLOOD AREA VIA HELICOPTER AUG. 16. MINFIN MUBASHIR HASAN CONDUCTED TOUR AND BRIEFED PARTY ON FLOOD CONDITIONS. TOUR COVERED RAWALPINDI/LAHORE, LAHORE/MULTAN, MULTAN SOUTH TO WHERE SUTLEJ ENTERS CHENAB, NORTH TO MULTAN ON WEST BANK OF CHENAB, ON TO RANGPUR, CROSSING CHENAB TO RAVI AND ON INTO LAHORE. FLOOD CONDITIONS APPEAR EXTREME WITH WATER STRETCHING AS FAR AS EYE COULD SEE. THOUSANDS OF HOMES DESTROYED, PEOPLE STRANDED IN HUNDREDS OF HAMLETS WITH NO WAY TO BE RESCUED, THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF CROPS UNDER WATER. GOP HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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MAJOR DISASTER ON ITS HANDS AND EVEN AT THIS POINT FULL EXTENT NOT KNOWN. MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS PER REFTTEL A FOLLOW SEPTTEL. END

SUMMARY.

2. AT CHARGE'S REQUEST, ACTING DIRECTOR USAID ACCOMPANIED GOP GUIDED TEN HOUR HELICOPTER TOUR OF MORE SERIOUSLY FLOODED AREAS OF PUNJAB PROVINCE ON AUG. SIXTEEN. MINFIN MUBASHIR HASAN CONDUCTED TOUR AND CITED FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF DAMAGE IN BRIEFING BEFORE START OF TRIP.

A. 20,000 SQUARE MILES UNDER FLOOD:
B. 10,000 VILLAGES AFFECTED:
C. 40,000 HAMLET CLUSTERS AFFECTED:
D. TWENTY-TWO TOWNS AND CITIES WITH POPULATIONS OVER 50,000 AFFECTED:
E. EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED:
F. ONE MILLION TONS OF STORED GRAIN LOST:
G. ONE MILLION HOUSES DESTROYED:
H. FIVE MILLION ACRES OF CROPS FLOODED VALUED AT RS. 2500 MILLION:
I. FIFTEEN MILLION PERSONS WILL REQUIRE PREVENTIVE AND EMERGENCY CURATIVE MEDICAL COVERAGE:
J. FIVE MAJOR HEADWORKS AND 15 LARGE CANALS DAMAGED DUE TO BREACHING IN IRRIGATION SYSTEM:
K. FOUR MAJOR BRIDGES OUT:
L. FOUR RAILWAY BRIDGES OUT:
M. 350 MILES OF ROAD SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AND 700 MILES OF ROAD PARTIALLY DAMAGED.

3. WHAT FOLLOWS WAS OBSERVED BY REPORTING OFFICER.

A. FIRST LEG OF TRIP WAS RAWALPINDI/LAHORE GENERALLY FOLLOWING GRAND TRUNK ROAD. CROSSING JHELM RIVER ALONG HIGHWAY SOUTH-WEST OF MANGLA I OBSERVED EXTENSIVE ROAD DAMAGE TO WEST ALONG RIVER: MORE ROAD DAMAGE SEEN AT GUJARAT AND EVIDENCE OF HOUSES COLLAPSED WHERE CHENAB OVERFLOWED: ROAD DAMAGE ALSO OBSERVED. AT WAZIRABAD RAIL LINE UNDER WATER AND PARTLY WASHED AWAY: HOUSES DAMAGED AND DESTROYED: CROPS UNDER WATER OR SILTED. THIS IS RICE, COTTON, CORN CROP AREA. AREA BETWEEN GUJRANWALA AND LAHORE APPEARED MORE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. EXTENSIVE FLOODING AT MURIDKE IN FIELDS. SOME LOCAL TRAFFIC OBSERVED MOVING FROM MURIDKE TO LAHORE. FLOODING OBSERVED IN ALL DIRECTIONS (SEVERAL MILES) COVERING CROPS AND ROADS.
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B. SECOND LEG OF TRIP WAS LAHORE TO MULTAN. LEAVING LAHORE WE FLEW WEST OF SHEIKAPURA, SOUTH OF KHANGAH DOGRAN TO CHINIOT AT CHENAB RIVER. RICE CROP UNDER WATER AND SILT: FODDER CROP RUINED. CHINIOT NOTED FOR PRIME VEGETABLE CROPS ALL OF WHICH DESTROYED. CONTINUED ON DOWN LEFT BANK OF CHENAB TOWARD JHANG. TRADITIONALLY 45 PERCENT THIS AREA PLANTED TO COTTON: OTHER CROPS ARE SUGARCANE AND FODDER. MUCH WATER STILL VISIBLE. MADE STOP AT JHANG WHICH HAS POPULATION ABOUT 100,000. DIFFICULT TO FIND PLACE DRY ENOUGH TO LAND. DEPUTY COMMISSIONER TOLD ME 80 PERCENT OF HOMES DESTROYED. PEOPLE OBSERVED LIVING IN EMPTY RAIL CARS AND MAKE-SHIFT SHELTERS ALONG RAIL TRACK WHICH IS HIGHEST LAND. CATTLE LOST, SOME LIVES LOST (ESTIMATE 97 LOST IN PUNJAB AS OF AUG. 15, BUT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS). RAIL LINE BROKEN AT JHANG. LEAVING JHANG WE

FLEW SOUTH ALONG CHENAB. AREA COMPLETELY UNDER WATER FOR MILES AND MINFIN SAID FLOOD PEAK WAS FOUR DAYS AGO IN THIS AREA. HAMLETS OBSERVED COMPLETELY ISOLATED WITH PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK CLINGING TO FEW FEET OF HIGH GROUND. SOUTH OF GRAH MAHRAJA WHERE RAVI JOINS CHENAB, ROADS WASHED OUT. ALONG THIS AREA WHERE RANGPUR CANAL PARALLELS RIVER ON RIGHT BANK AND SIDHU CANAL PARALLELS RIVER, LEFT BANK CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE (BREACHES) NOTED TO BOTH CANALS. WATER IN AREA OVER TREETOPS IN SOME PLACES. MULTAN CITY RINGED WITH FLOOD WATERS IN ALL DIRECTIONS: SOME FLOODING IN CITY.

C. NEXT LEG OF TRIP WAS MULTAN SOUTH ALONG CHENAB TO WHERE SUTLEJ JOINS. RAIL LINE TO KARACHI OUTSIDE MULTAN BREACHED. SHAHAR SULTAN VILLAGE COMPLETELY COVERED WITH WATER: COULD NOT FIND. PEAK FLOODING AT THIS POINT AT 4 P.M. TODAY. BANK LLRTK# THROUGH

TODAY AT PANJNAD HEADWORKS AT JUNCTURE OF RIVERS. DAMAGE WIDTH HERE ABOUT 30 MILES COMPARED TO 20 MILES WIDTH JUST SOUTH MULTAN. D. RETURN TO MULTAN FROM JUNCTURE CHENAB AND SUTLEJ TOOK US FARTHER EAST OF CHENAB.

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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